

## Message Text

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SECDEF FOR ASD/PA WOODS

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SUBJ: DPC - SECRETARY OF DEFENSE'S MEETINGS WITH THE PRESS

REF: WOODS/CLAUSSEN TELCON, DECEMBER 3

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE MORE LIKELY PRESS QUESTIONS  
OF SIGNIFICANCE WITH SUGGESTED ANSWERS:

A. REGARDING FORCE GOALS AND DEFENSE OUTLAYS

Q. PRESUMABLY PLANNING IS IN PROGRESS FOR A MINISTERIAL  
GUIDANCE TO BE USED AT NEXT SPRING'S MINISTERIAL. IF SO,  
CAN YOU GIVE US AN IDEA OF THE POST-MAY 1975 DEVELOPMENTS  
TO WHICH IT WILL BE RESPONSIVE?

A. OF COURSE, ALL ALLIES JOIN IN THE WRITING OF MINISTERIAL  
GUIDANCE. IN THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES, NEXT SPRING'S  
MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE SHOULD REAFFIRM THE BASIC SOUNDNESS OF  
THE ALLIANCE'S STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE, AND GO ON TO  
SPECIFY THOSE IMPROVEMENTS WE NEED TO PRESERVE THE VIABILITY  
OF THAT STRATEGY. CERTAINLY, THE NEXT VERSION OF MINI-  
STERIAL GUIDANCE MUST ADDRESS THE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE  
INCREASES WE SEE IN WARSAW PACT MILITARY CAPABILITIES. WE  
WOULD HOPE TO STRESS THE NEED TO DEFEND OURSELVES ADEQUATELY  
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AGAINST THE INCREASINGLY OFFENSIVE CHARACTER OF THESE  
CAPABILITIES. THIS INVOLVES NOT ONLY MODERNIZATION OF  
WEAPONS SYSTEMS BUT ALSO A GREAT DEAL OF WORK ON IMPROVING  
THE READINESS OF OUR FORCES IN THE FIELD AND IMPROVING

THE CAPABILITY TO REINFORCE THESE FORCES RAPIDLY. FINALLY, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE NEXT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE WOULD LAY EVEN GREATER STRESS ON THE NEED FOR COOPERATION AMONG ALLIES IN DEFENSE PLANNING. WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS THERE, BUT WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

Q. WHAT DECISIONS HAS THE DPC MADE IN RE FORCE GOALS?

A. THE FORCE GOALS THEMSELVES, OF COURSE, WERE AGREED TO AT LAST SPRING'S MEETING AND ADOPTED AS PLANNING TARGETS FOR NATO COUNTRIES. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF THIS MEETING (HAS BEEN) TO REVIEW OUR PROGRESS IN MEETING THESE FORCE GOALS. SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S ENOUGH. WE HAVE DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING HOW WE CAN DO BETTER TO NARROW WHAT WE PERCEIVE AS A WIDENING GAP BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT IN CONVENTIONAL MILITARY CAPABILITIES.

Q. IS IT EXPECTED THAT ALL NATO ALLIES WILL MAINTAIN FY76 DEFENSE SPENDING LEVELS IN REAL DOLLARS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO NATO IN FY77 AND FY78? HOW MANY COUNTRIES WILL REGISTER A PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN REAL DEFENSE OUTLAYS?

A. IT'S POSSIBLE TO FOCUS TOO MUCH ON TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNTS AND TOO LITTLE ON WHAT CAPABILITIES THOSE DOLLARS ARE BUYING. WITH VERY MINOR EXCEPTIONS, ALL OF THE ALLIES ARE MEETING THE COMMITMENTS OF FORCES WHICH THEY UNDERTOOK A YEAR AGO. LIKEWISE, ALL ALLIES HAVE GOOD PLANS TO CONTINUE THEIR FORCE IMPROVEMENTS IN 1978 AND BEYOND. YET, DESPITE ALL WE HAVE DONE INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, THERE IS A WIDENING GAP BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE WARSAW PACT IN CONVENTIONAL MILITARY CAPABILITIES. THEREFORE, WE ALL NEED TO KEEP OUR BUDGETS UP AND MAKE THE REAL INCREASES IN DEFENSE SPENDING THAT ARE NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH THE WIDENING GAP. AND, OF COURSE, WE HAVE TO HAVE STABILITY IN OUR DEFENSE PLANNING, SO THAT EXPENSIVE STRETCH-OUTS OF KEY WEAPONS PROGRAMS ARE MINIMIZED.

B. REGARDING NATO AEW

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF ALLIANCE ACTION ON THE NATO AEW SYSTEMS?

A. BASED ON THE DECISION OF DEFENSE MINISTERS IN JUNE THAT FURTHER STUDY WAS NEEDED, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT, DR. LABERGE, HAS, IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES, DEVELOPED A REFINED PROPOSAL FOR DEFENSE MINISTERS' CONSIDERATION.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ELEMENTS IN THE PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION? ARE ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROCUREMENT COSTS? WHO WILL OWN, OPERATE THE NATO AEW PLANES?

A. THE DETAILS OF OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION ARE ALL UNDER STUDY BY NATO BODIES AND THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES. WE HOPE THAT ALL NATIONS WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM IN SOME WAY.

Q. WHAT WOULD THE U.S. LIKE TO SEE?

A. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THE ALLIANCE NEEDS THE NATO

AEW SYSTEM. WE HAVE SAID THAT WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN A NATO PROGRAM. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL ALLIANCE NATIONS SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM AND AGREE THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE PROCURED. A SUCCESSFUL NATO AEW PROGRAM WILL BE A CLEAR EXPRESSION OF THE ALLIANCE'S RESOLVE TO MAINTAIN A CREDIBLE DETERRENT POSTURE.

Q. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE BY WHICH A SATISFACTORY DECISION ON ACQUIRING AND FUNDING THE NATO AEW PROGRAM CAN BE TAKEN?

A. WE BELIEVE THE NEED IS REAL AND THAT NATO SHOULD AGREE TO PROCURE THE SYSTEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ONE DRIVING FACTOR IS THAT THE U.S. NATIONAL PROGRAM WILL NOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. A NATO DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN BEFORE THE U.S. PRODUCTION LINE BEGINS TO CLOSE DOWN TO AVOID AN EXPENSIVE PRODUCTION LINE RESTART.

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#### C. REGARDING STANDARDIZATION

Q. WHAT CONCRETE STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, ELIMINATING SOME OF THE WORSE EXAMPLES OF SAME CITED IN THE GARDNER TUCKER STUDY JUST PUBLISHED BY THE ATLANTIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS?

A. OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS THE SUBJECT OF STANDARDIZATION HAS BECOME AN INCREASINGLY LIVE ISSUE AND HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSIONS OF BOTH THE COUNCIL AND THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE. THE BROAD OVERALL APPROACH PROPOSED IN DIFFERING FORMS IN 1974 AND 1975 HAS GIVEN PLACE TO A MORE SPECIFIC APPROACH BY WAY OF SEPARATE, BUT RELATED, ACTIVITIES. ONE ACTIVITY, COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT OF SPECIFIC ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT, HAS BEEN MAKING CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. AS AN ILLUSTRATIVE, BUT NOT EXHAUSTIVE, EXAMPLE THERE ARE:

1) 29 EQUIPMENT ITEMS OR SYSTEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING PROCURED THROUGH NATO ARRANGEMENTS BY TWO OR MORE NATIONS. THESE INCLUDE THE F-16 AIR COMBAT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, THE FH-70 TOWED HOWITZER AND THE SEASPARROW POINT DEFENSE MISSILE SYSTEM.

2) 8 EQUIPMENT ITEMS WHERE THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR SUCH PROCUREMENT. THESE INCLUDE THE NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM, THE HOT DIRECT FIRE ANTI-ARMOR WEAPON AND THE ERMIS EXPLOSION RESISTANT MULTI-INFLUENCE SWEEP SYSTEM.

3) 10 EQUIPMENT ITEMS WHERE THERE ARE OR HAVE BEEN DIRECT BI- OR MULTI-NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. THESE INCLUDE THE STINGER UNCLASSIFIED

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AND BLOWPIPE MANPORTABLE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES, AND THE ROLAND-II SHORT-RANGE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. AT ITS LAST MEETING, THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS RE-AFFIRMED THE CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH AND PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE AREAS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ANTI-ARMOR. IT NOTED THE ADHERENCE OF TEN COUNTRIES TO THE FORTHCOMING TEST AND EVALUATION PROGRAM FOR A NEW GENERATION OF PORTABLE INFANTRY WEAPONS AND THE PREPARATION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE SEA GNAT SHIP-LAUNCHED DECOY SYSTEM. IT WENT ON TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC ITEMS IN THE AREA OF MUNITIONS AS APPROPRIATE FOR INTENSIFIED STANDARDIZATION EFFORT. OTHER NATO BODIES SUCH AS THE MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION AND THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAVE PROMULGATED ABOUT 220 EQUIPMENT STANDARDIZATION AGREEMENTS AND 30 ASSOCIATED ALLIED PUBLICATIONS.

D. REGARDING WARSAW PACT MILITARY STRENGTH.

Q. IN WHAT SPECIFIC WAYS HAVE CONVENTIONAL FORCES AND MILITARY CAPABILITY INCREASED IN THE PAST YEAR VIS-A-VIS NATO MILITARY CAPABILITY?

A. WHAT WE'RE SEEING NOW ON THE OTHER SIDE IS THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF THE ALMOST ABSOLUTE PRIORITY GIVEN BY THE SOVIETS TO DEFENSE PROGRAMS OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS, RATHER THAN SIMPLY LAST YEAR. THEY NOW SPEND 11-13 PERCENT OF THEIR GNP ON DEFENSE, AGAINST OUR NATO AVERAGE OF LESS THAN 5 PERCENT, AND THEIR DEFENSE EXPEDITURES ARE CLIMBING AT A RATE OF ALMOST 5 PERCENT PER YEAR IN REAL TERMS AGAINST OUR MUCH LOWER RATE OF INCREASE. WE ARE TROUBLED BY THE INCREASINGLY OFFENSIVE CHARACTER OF THE SOVIET THREAT AS REFLECTED IN THE:

1) INTRODUCTION IN LARGE NUMBERS OF THIRD-GENERATION SOVIET AIRCRAFT WHICH HAVE DOUBLE THE RANGE AND TRIPLE THE PAYLOAD OF EARLIER SOVIET MODELS.

2) THE INCREASING MOBILITY IN SOVIET FORCES IN EASTERN EUROPE, AS EVIDENCED BY DEPLOYMENT OF A NEW AND HIGHLY-CAPABLE MAIN BATTLE TANK AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW SELF-PROPELLED FIELD ARTILLERY PIECES.

3) THE QUANTUM INCREASE IN FIREPOWER OF SOVIET FORMATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE, WHICH IS ADDED TO A TOTAL THAT WAS ALREADY IMPRESSIVE.

4) WHAT APPEARS TO BE A GREAT INCREASE IN THE ABILITY OF THE SOVIETS TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO THEIR FORWARD-UNCLASSIFIED

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BASED FORMATIONS IN THE EVENT OF WAR.

E. REGARDING THE NUNN-BARTLETT STATEMENT

Q. WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL US VIEW REGARDING THE NUNN-BARTLETT POSITION ON NATO'S STRATEGY?

A. DRAW ON STATE 281886 (NOTAL) DATED 17 NOVEMBER. THE FOLLOWING MIGHT BE ADDED: GENERALLY, WE SEE THE PROBLEM IN TERMS OF OUR ABILITY TO FIELD ADEQUATE CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN GOOD TIME. ALLIANCE STRATEGY IS BASICALLY SOUND. WE NEED TO DO A LOT MORE WORK, HOWEVER, SO THAT WE WILL HAVE THE REQUISITE ASSURANCE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE IN THE FUTURE SUCCESSFULLY TO IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGY, SHOULD THE ENEMY CHOOSE TO TEST US. FOR THE PRESENT, DETERRENCE IS REASONABLY ASSURED. THE TRENDS IN CONVENTIONAL MILITARY CAPABILITIES, HOWEVER, ARE NOT IN OUR DIRECTION AND WE MUST REVERSE THEM.

F. THE "LOS ALAMOS REPORT"

Q. WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL US VIEW OF THE LOS ALAMOS REPORT?

A. THE LOS ALAMOS REPORT REPRESENTS THE PERSONAL VIEWS OF THE AUTHORS AND CANNOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN EXPRESSION OF US POLICY, WHICH CONTINUES TO BE BASED ON EXISTING NATO DOCTRINE OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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